

Ylem (Eye-lum): The exploding mass out of which the universe emerged in the Big Bang

**Artists Using Science and Technology**

**Ylem Newsletter**  
Vol.12, No. 7 October 1992



Hologram by Light Impressions. Computer Art: "Playing Around with Posada" by Lucia Grossberger

## Deadhead in 3-D

by Louis M. Brill

## News of Members

The Skull hologram as produced by Light Impressions, Inc. of Santa Cruz, California shines very clearly with a "life" of its own as a novelty and stock advertising foil. With superior image resolution, the Skull strikingly reveals forehead, cheekbone, and tooth detail to a startling degree. More interesting is the foreground - background color separation as the Skull image is brought into focus, its background shifts through a range of color, at times giving the Skull a very ominous and foreboding appearance.

The Light Impression hologram was originally commissioned as cover art for some specific medical trade show literature. Rather than exist as a one-time image, the Skull became interesting enough that Light Impressions acquired it as a stock hologram for retail distribution. Much to the delight of Light Impressions the Skull image has proved there is a design life for graphic images after their one-time cover use.

Becoming one of their most popular images, the Skull appears in many forms from its original image to modified advertising images. In one example, a graphic was composed using the classic stylized red circle with a slash printed across its Skull face and the wording "Don't Drink and Drive." It is considered one of the more popular holograms—very much in demand towards Halloween (Hmmm!). However its distribution remains almost as strong throughout the rest of the year.

The Skull's background art was created by Ylem member Lucia Grossberger Morales who has become intrigued with the Latino expression of death through art. In exploring her Latin American culture she noted the striking differences between America and Latin American attitudes towards death,

"In Latin America death is seen as an ally, someone you can joke or even dance with. Hence the skeleton, a universal death icon is presented in a playful presence. Here in America, death is seen more as a frightening experience to be avoided at all costs."

Lucia Grossberger Morales deals with these issues through her explorations of the Latin American Day of the Dead holiday as expressed by her interactive shrines. These installations utilize computer monitors, and video tape of computer generated images to illustrate her interactive shrines. The images in turn become an integral part of her shrines. Four of these have been completed covering such diverse areas biculturalism, Day of the Dead, a picture poem to about immigrants, and another as a "political" shrine. On the cover, she has scanned a block print by the nineteenth-century Mexican artist, Posada, and altered it. Grossberger-Morales noted in an aside, that she has previously seen the Skull hologram, and in doing this project she was not surprised that it once again surfaced in her life.

Light Impressions, Inc. is a world leader in producing very high quality embossed foil holograms. The company has perfected several types of embossing processes such as direct 3-D imaging (like the Skull), a 2-D / 3-D process incorporating real images plus a graphic design and full natural color reproduction process as produced from color transparencies or models. Ylem is grateful to Light Impressions, Inc. for their donation of the Skull gracing our October 1992 issue. For more information about Light Impressions, Inc. embossing services, please contact

Pam Jamison, Light Impressions Inc.,  
149-B Josephine Street, P.O.

Box 1899, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-  
1899. (408) 458-1991.

In Marrakech, Morocco this month, an international gathering of musicians and shamans has invited **Digital Media** to be "techno-shamans." They will be using computer equipment similar to that used in their performance at Ylem's September Forum.

**Tamas Walicz** of Budapest has been working at the 2KM Institut in Karlsruhe, Germany, on his animated film project. He sends information about the museum so that others may also receive grants to work there (see Opportunities).

In San Jose, CA, **Ruth Asawa** has been commissioned to make a commemorative sculpture of the Internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

T.A.I Gallery in New York held a solo exhibition of the computer art of **Ilene Astrahan** in July. She finds that curators of New York galleries now show more interest in this medium.

A painting by **Cynthia Kurtz** was purchased by IBM's San Jose headquarters.

Art instructor and color specialist **Tom Lechleiter** received a trophy and award for inspiring excellence at the Image Industry Council's Annual Convention in San Francisco.



*Homunculi*, computer art by Myrrh

## Ylem Events

### **Ylem Forum: Mind and Perception**

**Wednesday, November 4, 7:30 pm**

McBean Theatre, The Exploratorium,  
3601 Lyon St., San Francisco

Free and open to the public.  
Handicapped access. Free night also  
at the Museum. Bring Friends!

#### **Program:**

**Roger Shepard**, professor of  
psychology at Stanford: *Paradox and  
Perception*. The talk will feature  
Shepard's paradoxical drawings from  
his book, *Mind Sights*.

**William C. Gough** of the Foundation for  
Mind-Being Research: *Matter, Mind  
and Symbols*.

**Kali Grosberg**, writer and director of  
Sibyl & Co., a multimedia theatre  
production company: *Perception and  
World*.

**Chris Van Raalte** will demonstrate  
*BodySynth*, a MIDI device that he and  
his partner, **Ed Severinghaus**, are  
developing. *BodySynth* turns muscular  
movements such as dance into sound.

**Victims of our Brains**, excerpt from a  
video about Douglas Hofstadter, Artificial  
Intelligence research, MIT Labs.

#### **Art in the Lobby**

**Nance Paternoster**: *Digital Angelz* from  
her recent show, *11:11*

**Craig Cassin**: Op art from the computer

**Gail Gordon**: Documentation about art  
made purely from light.

**Roger Ferragallo**: 3-D art

**Illuminations**, an art video by Ken  
Jenkins

**Upcoming Forum  
January 6, 1993  
Art and Physics:**

Leonard Shlain, MD,  
author of *Art and Physics*  
—and more!

#### **Ylem-Leonardo Lecture:**

**Michele Emmer, Co-editor of  
Leonardo: Visual Mathematics.**

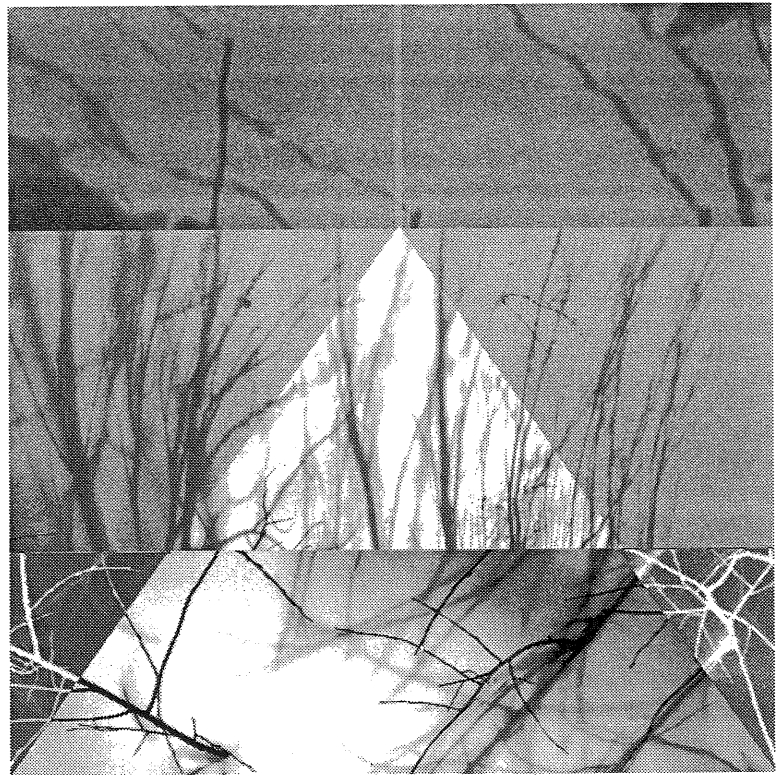
**Monday, October 12, 7:30 pm**

**Center for Extreme Ultraviolet  
Astrophysics**

**2150 Kittridge (near Berkeley BART  
Station), Berkeley**

If you enjoy topology, tessellations,  
perspective, and computer art that  
uses math algorithms, join us for a  
visual feast! Emmer is the guest editor  
of the recent issue of *Leonardo* on  
visual mathematics. He is visiting from  
Venice, Italy.

**Contact: Roger Malina,  
510-642-9319**



*Found Drawing Assemblage*, computer art by Karen  
Schminke

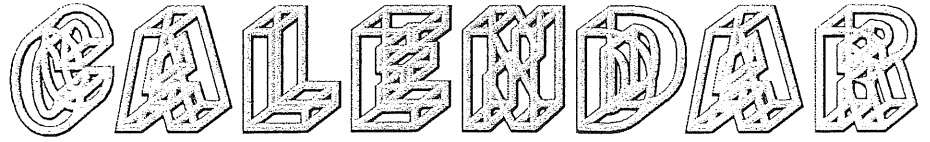
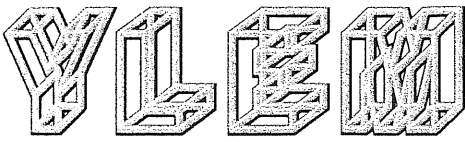
**Ylem Tour:  
Djerassi Foundation Artist Retreat  
Sunday, October 25, 2 pm**

**2325 Bear Gulch Rd., Woodside, CA**

Stroll through the prestigious art colony  
in the wilds of Woodside, CA, and see  
site-specific sculptures with Acting  
Director Charles Boone. No spaces left,  
but call about possible cancellations:  
Trudy Myrrh Reagan, **415-856-9593**.

**ylem@well.sf.ca.us**

This is our new e-mail address. It is an  
"alias" on the WELL, and anyone  
anywhere in our group who is on-line  
may play host and editor. This person  
does not have to subscribe to the WELL.  
Eleanor Kent has consented to host our  
bulletin board for a few months, but the  
proposal is for different people to host it  
for periods of six months or more. A  
great opportunity for distant members to  
get involved! Contact Eleanor at 415-  
647-8503 or ekent@well.sf.ca.us.



## Events

September 30 – December 16, 6:30–7:30 pm

### Visionary Technology

Course offered by San Francisco Institute of Architecture (Director: Ylem member Fred Stitt). Reading, speed learning and review course in the new technologies that may totally transform civilization, human evolution and architecture. \$220, credit, \$120 non-credit. No prerequisites. For list of topics and location, contact: **SFIA Information Office, PO Box 749, Orinda, CA 94563; 510-254-9397**

October 1 – December 17, 6:30–8 pm

### The Mind Stretcher

Course offered by San Francisco Institute of Architecture. Weekly meetings to experience the widest scope of the mind's powers of creative abstract imagery. Fees, address, see "Visionary Technology," above.

October 1 – December 17, 8–9:30 pm

### The Design Process and the Architectural Mind

Weekly seminars to study the mental and emotional processes that precede, precipitate, support...or hinder the process of creative design. Fees, address, see "Visionary Technology," above.

October 4-6

### The New Tools (New York)

Computer graphics for design, to be held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City. Depending on the number of seminars one attends, fees range from \$155 to \$750 (8 seminars). Features newest tools, how to run the electronic design office. Register by *June 1* for 10% off. Info: **Center for Computer Graphics Design, PO Box 8380, Santa Fé, NM 87504; 800-982-0051; Fax 505-989-4701**

October 10–11, 12–5 pm

### Paper Marbling Demonstration

Ylem founder Trudy Myrrh Reagan will explore fluid dynamics and chaos in paint in her demonstration of the ancient art of paper marbling. Free samples. **The Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco; 415-563-7337**

October 11, 10–6 pm

### Frugal to Fantastic

The Bay Area wizards of computerized graphics, animation and other amazing special effects are gathering for this seminar. Artists, designers and animators show off in every format, from the Toaster to T-2. Eight speakers discuss new technology in all price ranges. Colossal Pictures, Industrial Light & Magic, Pacific Data Images, Xaos, Inc., Xaos Tools,

Steve Beck and John Sanborne. Held at the New Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. Fee: \$65 members; \$85 non-members. Info: **BAVC (Bay Area Video Coalition), 1111 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94107; Leanne Lempinen at 415-861-3282; Fax 861-4316**

October 12–18, 8:00 pm

### SymMedia '92

New Music Theatre presents SymMedia '92, a forum for live performance and interactive media technologies. The event will feature the premiere of a music theater work, *The Edge of the Circle*, and will include interactive installations by Bay Area artists, and a series of workshops and lecture demonstrations offered by the New Music Theatre company. Performances will take place each evening at 8:00 pm. **Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida, San Francisco, CA; 415-621-7747**

October 12, 7:30 pm

### Ylem-Leonardo Lecture: Visual Mathematics

Details on page 3.

October 16–17, 7:30 pm

### DoWhatDo

The spectacular multi-media performance event during the International Computer Music Conference hosted by San Jose State University. Cross-culturalism in Silicon Valley involving computer graphics, engineering, interactive systems, video, networking, broadcasting and electro-acoustics. The top floor of the City of San Jose's public parking facility is magically transformed into a hi-tech, multi-media drive-in, drive-through movie experienced from within automobiles. Two hundred performers. Tickets (per car), \$60. Space limited! No tickets at the door! Orders: **San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, 2 N. Second St. #100, San Jose, CA; 408-998-4310; slayton@sjsuvm1.bitnet**

Through October 17

### Recipe

By John Woodall. A site-specific installation and theater in-the-round performance. Twenty-four-hour visual access from street. Performances: \$8, through **Oct. 17**; opening night: **Oct. 2**. Installation opens at 7 pm; performance at 8 pm. Exhibition of Related Work: through **Oct. 31** at Mincher/Wilcox Gallery, S.F. **The Fillmore Center, 1425 Fillmore Street at O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA; Information and Reservations 415-392-1015**

*All events and exhibits are in the San Francisco Bay Area except where noted. Is your event or exhibit listed here? Send to Ylem Editor, 967 Moreno, Palo Alto, CA 94303.*

October 17–18, 10–6 pm

### Hands-On Video Toaster

Desktop video with Video Toaster software on the Amiga. Weekend workshop at The New Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. **BAVC (Bay Area Video Coalition), 1111 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94107; Leanne Lempinen at 415-861-3282; Fax 861-4316**

October 24–25, 8 pm

### Mapping

A performance work by the Agustino Dance Company using illuminated life-size rocking buoys by sculptor and Ylem member Therese Lahaie. More buoy sculptures by Lahaie will be on display in the Open Arts Circle Gallery. Tickets at the door, \$9. Seating is limited. **Open Arts Circle, 580 E. Eighth St. (at Sixth Ave., near Laney College), Oakland, CA; Info, Therese, 510-601-8500**

October 25, 2 pm

### Ylem Tour of Djerassi Foundation

Details on page 3.

October 29 – November 1

### CyberArts International Conference and Exposition (Pasadena, CA)

Sponsored by *Keyboard* magazine in conjunction with *Verbum* magazine. For professionals in film, broadcast theatre, theme parks, music, or home entertainment. At the Pasadena Conference Center. Prepayment required. Includes presentations, hands-on multimedia workshops, the CyberArts Gallery, cutting edge technology exhibits, Leonardo Journal's 25th Anniversary Celebration, the multimedia Halloween Haunt.

**CyberArts International, c/o Galaxy Registration, P.O. Box 3867, Frederick, MD 21701; 415-905-2496**

October 31—November 1, 1-4 pm  
**Diane Fenster Computer Art Demo**

Diane Fenster will demonstrate computer photo-montage at the Climate Theatre as part of San Francisco Open Studios. If she can borrow a color printer, she will give free printouts. **Climate Theatre, 252 Ninth St., San Francisco**

November 4, 7:30 pm  
**Ylem Forum: Mind and Perception**

Details on page 3.

## Exhibits

October 1 — December 31

### Emily Young

New computer fine art by Emily Young. **Art Department at Portland State University, Portland, OR; Info: Daria Barclay, 503-640-0525**

October 2 — November 2

### Emeryville Art Show

Emeryville, an industrial enclave on the east side of the Bay Bridge, is famous for its artists' workshops. This art show, which acknowledges them, includes Ylem artist Therese Lahaie. Call her for details: **510-601-8500**

October 3-4, 12-5 pm

### Open Studio: Myrrh

Myrrh (Trudy Myrrh Reagan) shows marbled paintings, geologic art, and glowing plexiglas panels of patterns in nature for Santa Clara County Open Studios. Also on display are vessels, plaques and jewelry by enamelist Jean Foster Jenkins. **Myrrh, 967 Moreno, Palo Alto, CA 94303; 415-856-9593**

### Through October 8 The Maze!

In conjunction with the *Navigation* exhibit, a twenty-square-foot maze will be

temporarily installed. Get lost! **Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco; 415-563-7337**

October 9-11

### Names Quilt (Washington, DC)

Honors those who have died of AIDS at International Quilt Display, President's Park, Washington, DC. Info: **415-863-5511**

October 10-11, 11-5 pm

### Open Studio: Magi Bollock (Santa Cruz)

Interactive digital furniture, computer portraits by Ylem member Magi Bollock on view during Santa Cruz County Open Studios Weekend. Bonus: **Oct. 24-5, open studio again. Magi Bollock, 160 Peck Terrace, Santa Cruz, CA; 408-423-4330**

Through October 11

### Thou Shalt Not (Santa Cruz)

Interactive digital furniture by Ylem member Magi Bollock. Pieces of old furniture become consoles for interactive art works. Closing reception, **October 11, 1-4 pm. Porter College, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064**

Through October 15

### Big Ladies and Difficult Women

Multi-media group show includes two computer works by Ylem member Diane Fenster. **Building 1, Skyline College, 3300 College Dr., San Bruno, CA; 415-355-7000 ext. 4267**

Through October 26

### 11:11—Digitized Angels' Portraits

Computer art by Ylem member Nance Paternoster, who posted this enigmatic sticker around San Francisco: "11:11—Have You Seen it Lately? Call..." People responded who had "beautiful energy," she says. Her art portrays them as angels. **Architects and Heroes (Powell), 207 Powell St., 4th Fl., San Francisco, CA**

Through October 29

### Art of the Cosmos (Bridgeport, CT)

Organized by the International Association for Astronomical Artists, it is the brainchild of Ylem member Beth Avary. The show includes her work, and that of Ylem founder, Trudy Myrrh Reagan. Show will travel until 1993. **The Discovery Museum, 4450 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06604; 203-372-3521**

Through October 30

### Vernissage (Art Party)

Art exhibit includes Ylem Artist Fran Valesco. **Spectrum Gallery, 511 Harrison St. (at 1st St.), San Francisco, CA 94105; 415-495-1113**

Computer art by Craig Cassin

Through November 4

### Bay Area Greats

An exhibition featuring 36 of the Bay Area's most noted contemporary artists. More than 60 art works will be on exhibit, including paintings, prints, and sculpture. Includes Ylem member Ruth Asawa. **Syntex Gallery, 3401 Hillview Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94304**

Through November 30

### Living Gallery (Los Angeles)

Computer art by Ylem member Mason Lyte in a new non-profit gallery devoted to digital, video, MIDI, plasma and holographic art. **EZTV Gallery, 8547 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA; 310-657-6558**

## Opportunities

### Zeutrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie (ZKM) Stipends

To promote advancement of innovative genres of art and their dissemination, one-year stipends are awarded for projects of musicians, artists and scientists; also for theoretical investigations in media arts and aesthetics. The equipment and resources of ZKM are placed at the disposal of the artist, and additional help may come from other sponsoring organizations. Proposals should include a complete project description, schedule, and materials needs. Also inquire about the German Video Prize, with the winner to be shown on German television. **ZKM, 7500 Karlsruhe 1, Kaiserstrasse 64, Germany**

Deadline October 1

### 24th Baltimore Independent Film & Videomakers Competition

\$3,000 awards. 16mm, 3/4", VHS, by independents, completed 1/1/91-10, max. 60 minutes. \$25/entry up to 30 minutes. \$25/entry up to 30 minutes. Categories include: Animation, and just-plain experimental. **Baltimore Film Forum, Balt. Museum of Art, 10 Art Museum Dr., Baltimore, MD 21218; 410-889-1993; Fax 410-889-2657**

Deadline October 1

### Shock

Open to all, all media. Theme: "Can you shock us today?" No entry fee. Jurors: Eleanor Dickenson, artist; Katherine Cook, curator; Peter Sells, professor. **Himovitz Gallery, 1020 10th St., Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-448-8723**

Deadline October 2

### 7th Annual National Visions In Space

Cash awards. Open to all. 2-D (except photo) and 3-D wall-hung works; creative interpretation of flight, space, and space exploration; min, 12" x 16", max. 3' x 4' and 30

lbs. \$5/slide, max. 4. Juror: Gene Youngman, artist. Show Oct. 12-Dec. 11, Fiske Planetarium. 20% commission. No insurance. **Mountainside Art Guild, c/o B. Tobiska, Visions in Space, 31 S. Holland, Lakewood, CO80226, 303-237-8995**

*Deadline October 5*

### **Toys Designed By Artists**

\$3,000 purchase awards. Craft media; toys. \$10/entry, 3 slides/entry. Show Dec. 6-27. **Arkansas Arts Center, P.O. Box 2137, Little Rock AR 72203; 501-372-4000**

*Deadline October 12*

### **Old World/New World: Culture Shock 1492**

6th Annual International Mail Art Show. Open to all; all media, max. 5" x 8", postcard style (not in envelope). No fee, no jury, no returns, documentation to all (poster and complete listing of artists). Work will become part of the City art collection. Show Nov. 3-30, Kent Library. **Mail Art Show, Kent Parks Dept., 220 4th Ave. South, Kent, WA 98032; 859-3996**

*Deadline October 12*

### **HOW International Annual of Design**

Open to all. Graphic designs created 1/1/91 - 6/30/92. Animation, business collateral, computer graphics, covers/jackets, environmental graphics, illustration, invitations, announcements, letterhead/logo/I.D., misc. (stamps, banners, etc.), packaging, photography, posters, print ads, publications, seasonal clarendars, spreads, 3-D, wearables. \$20/entry, \$45/campaign (3+ pieces in a single project). **HOW International Annual of Design, 1507 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207**

*Deadline October 14*

### **Phelan Art Award in Video**

Three awards totalling \$7500 will go to video artists born (but not necessarily living in) California. Works must originate in video medium (not film or slides) and be non-commercial. Format: 3/4" or 1/2" VHS. Info: **BAVC "Phelan Art Award in Video," 1111 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94107; 415-861-3282**

*Deadline October 22*

### **Divided...**

Open to all. "We're interested in your response to the idea of segregation, not just the division of people into colors and ethnic groups, but divisions between or within individuals, divisions within families, good and evil, yin and yang...every way that human beings divide their world up. Send postcards, collages, stampings, or anything else." Show to be held at the Dayton Visual Arts Center. **Divided..., P.O. Box 554, Dayton, OH 45402, Fax 513-228-7229**

*Deadline October 30*

### **The Prisma Prize**

New computer art prize offered by the Hamburg Cultural Foundation (Hamburgische Kulturstiftung) and the PRISMA Computer Group (European Apple Macintosh distributor). It is being offered to promote invention and creativity in the medium and to increase public awareness of the extent of change in human perception that electronic media have brought about. Submit three works in these media: computer graphics, animation, multi-media. Send slides, VHS, Super-VHS or prints. To be shown at Medial Festival and Interface Symposium in Hamburg, February, 1993. **Hamburgische Kulturstiftung, Chilehaus C, Burchardstrasse 13, D-2000 Hamburg 1, Germany**

*Deadline October 31*

### **New American Talent**

Open to emerging and mid-career U.S. artists. 2- and 3-D media. \$22/up to 3 slides, \$5/each additional, max. 10. Juror: Kerry Brougher, Assoc. Curator, Museum of Contemp. Art, Los Angeles. Show Mar. 20-Apr. 25, Laguna Gloria Art Museum; selected works will tour, 18 months. Insurance. Catalog to be produced. **Texas Fine Arts Assn., 3809-B W. 35th St., Austin; TX 78703, 512-453-5312**

*Deadline November 1*

### **6th National Computer Art Invitational**

Cash awards. Open to all, Computer-generated work—hard copies only, no floppies or software. \$10/up to 10 slides. Juror: Richard Twedt, Director of Galleries, EWU. Show in January. **Friends of Gallery, Gallery of Art, MS-102, Dept. of Art, Eastern Washington Univ., Cheney, WA 99004; 509-359-7070**

*Deadline November 2*

### **1993 (35th) American Film and Video Festival**

Requirements for eligibility: entry produced and/or released January 1, 1991 and December 30, 1992. Entry Fees: \$80-\$155 (before Oct 3; \$72-\$126) AFVA, P.O. Box 48659, Niles, IL 60714

*Deadline Unclear.*

### **Papers, Exhibits Sought for Montage '93**

Montage '93: Festival of the Image Conference, July-August '93, celebrates the fusion of art with technology in contemporary image making. Proposals sought for one of the ten symposia, for exhibits and commissioned artists' projects. PROS: **Montage '93, 31 Prince St., Rochester, NY, 14607-1499; 716-442-8897; Fax 716-442-8931**

### **Computer Artists Needed**

George Coates Performance Works, known for its dazzling multimedia shows, is looking for computer artists to collaborate with them on the production of Steve Reich's *Desert Music*. Contact: **Cat McGrath, 415-863-8520**

### **Banff Centre**

An artist technology workshop and retreat backed by the Canadian government, the Banff Centre provides a diverse group of artists with access to equipment for advanced-technology projects such as virtual reality (VR) and A-life. The present VR project attempts to move beyond the constraints of goggles and gloves to include pertinent developments in telepresence, audio virtuality, collaboration at a distance and interactive multimedia. Contact: **Maureen Lee, Art and Virtual Environments, Media Arts Dept., The Banff Centre for the Arts, Banff, Alberta, Canada T0L 0C0; 403-762-6651; Fax 403-762-6659**

### **TED4KOBE**

The Fourth Technology in Entertainment Design Conference in Kobe, Japan (TED4KOBE) seeks 60 innovations by institutions around the world that have never before been publically presented. These "Idea Bytes" must be explainable on video in five minutes! These will be the focus of this May 1993 conference put together by designer Richard Saul Werman. (TED's high-powered conferences are expensive and, with only room for only 500, hard to get into. However, tapes of them are usually available afterwards. TED5 will be held in Monterey, CA, and applications are available now). **TED Conferences Inc., 59 Wooster St., New York, NY 10012; 212-219-8993; Fax 212-219-0583**

Computer art on these pages by Craig Cassin



### Holography Pioneers

Looking to contact those people who worked in Holography from 1965 to 1975 for book in progress. Write to Cecile Ruchin, Box 619, 250 West 77th Street, New York, NY 10024; 212-362-7700 ext. 619.

### Ph.D Thesis on Virtual Reality: Technical and Cultural Aspects

Prof. Alessandro Polistina is coordinating a Ph.D thesis entitled *To Live the Imaginary: The Virtual Reality, Technical and Cultural Aspects*. The authors are interested in receiving descriptions of works involving interactive computer arts together with pictures of the works. Prof. Alessandro Polistina, Politecnico di Milano, Facolta di Architettura, Dipartimento di Progettazione dell'Architettura Via Bonardi 3, 20133 Milano, Italy; tel. 0039-02-23995061

## Needs and Offerings

### A Day Without Art

Observed on December 1, A Day Without Art memorializes those who have died of AIDS. Anyone having an idea for an observance that the Ylem community could do, please call Trudy Myrrh Reagan with your suggestion. Trudy, 415-856-9593

February 15

### Airlines Antitrust Suit

American, Continental, Delta, Midway, Northwest, Pan Am, TWA, United and USAir airlines overcharged customers who bought tickets between 1/1/88 and 6/30/92 and who used certain hub airports. To settle a lawsuit, they will pay customers coupons giving a 10% discount on future domestic flights. To receive claim forms, write: Airlines Antitrust Litigation, PO Box 267, Pennsauken, NJ 08110

### Ars Electronica Center

A museum for the 21st century, Ars Electronica Center, will open in Linz, Austria, in 1995. It will feature electronic art and house the archive of the Prix Electronica. Info: Festival für Kunst, Technologie und Gesellschaft, Landesstudio Oberösterreich, Franckstrasse 2A, A-4010 Linz, Austria

### Art Com

Founded in 1975, this San Francisco-based cultural organization specializes in the interface of contemporary art and new communication technology. Select projects include: *Art Com Electronic Network (ACEN)*; *Art Com Magazine*; Art Com Media Distribution; Art Com Television; Contemporary Art Press. Send for catalog of unusual books, videos and software. Art Com, POB-193123 Rincon Annex, San Francisco, CA 94119-3123; Order Hotline: 415-431-7524 (voice)

### Artists Equity

Since 1947, the only national organization whose primary purposes are to work for improved economic conditions for artists and for the expansion and protection of artists' rights. The economic and social climate is as unavoidable as the weather. These, however, are not unchangeable. In 1988, legislation successfully promoted by AE included the exemption of visual artists from the 1986 tax revision, which would have made it almost impossible for artists to deduct their expenses from Federal taxes. Services: Fine art insurance; credit union. Dues: \$60. Artists Equity, PO Box 28068, Central Sta., Washington, DC 20038; 1-800-727-NAEA; (Northern CA Chapter, PO Box 460931, San Francisco, CA 94146; 415-626-6808)

### Can Anyone Use Older Computers?

Tax-deductible donations of commercially obsolete or surplus computers, software, peripherals, audio and video equipment... for info write: National Cristina Foundation, 42 Hillcrest Dr., Pelham Manor, NY 10803; 1-800-274-7846

### Co-Active Aesthetics

GCB11, marketed by an Ylem affiliate, was created for interactive computer art that senses inputs and controls some output device(s) in real-time. It has small size, low power consumption, networking, lots of input/output and low cost. It consists of a small single-board microcontroller and a suite of software to provide networking between multiple GCB11's and PCs. A microcontroller is essentially a single-chip microcomputer that is designed specifically for applications which are tightly coupled to the "real world." Programmable using the "C" language; comes with application libraries. Total cost, under

\$200; substantial discounts for quantities of 4 or more. Co-Active Aesthetics, P.O. Box 425967, S.F., CA 94142; coactive@coactive.com>

### Communicate with Color

Heartline color seminars, presentations and instruction conducted by Ylem artist A.T. Lechleiter for commercial and fine arts applications. Lechleiter also considers the metaphysics of color perception. A.T. Lechleiter & D. Sanders Enterprises, 1211 S. "B" St., San Mateo, CA, 94402; 415-345-8775

### Computers in Science & Art—Media Magic 1991/92

A connoisseur's catalog of educational and entertaining books, videotapes, software and more... Media Magic, P.O. Box 507, Nicasio, CA 94946; 415-662-2426

### Embracing Earth

*Embracing Earth: New Views of Our Changing Planet*, a book by Payson R. Stevens and Kevin W. Kelly. Satellite photos using newest technology show topography, wind patterns, volcanic eruptions, storms and human impact. 125 color pictures chosen for their beauty as well as interest. \$39.95 hardbound. From: Chronicle Books, 275 Fifth St., San Francisco, CA, 94103; 415-777-8878; to order: 1-800-722-6657

### HIV/AIDS Mural

A project by the Health Education and Training Center to paint a large HIV/AIDS education mural, directly across the street from a park notorious as a place for illicit sex and for the sale and use of illegal drugs, gives you an opportunity to sponsor a long-lasting art project while playing a significant part in stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS. About 13,500 persons per day will see the mural as they enter East San Jose resulting in a powerful visual AIDS prevention message. Pablo Soto, a local Latino artist, will paint the mural along with 5 volunteer youth and interview people who frequent the park, in order to get them involved. For info call Roger Shaff at (408) 977-4566. Health Education and Training Center, 675 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA 95112; 408-977-4562; Fax 408-993-7047

### Multimedia Studies Program

New expanded program in the Extended Education courses of San Francisco State University. "Multimedia, the convergence of computers with video, film, sound, graphics and text, is the 'technological loom' weaving media together, creating new industries, new jobs, new art." SFSU Extended Education, 1600 Holoway, San Francisco, CA 94132; Info. re. this program: 415-338-1205



### **Sophia**

*Sophia* is a local, interactive communal memory pattern experiment. It runs on a six-year-old self-organizing information structure to store and retrieve semantically associated thought as text called MX, Memory Experiment. Participants enter and play with thoughts and word associations. The software creates a web of experiential, conceptual and textual associations between these and previous entries; and a path for animated replay. To participate, contact knowledge artist **Mark Carranza, Institute for the Prevention of Design, 1436 8th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122; 415-664-5825; mc2@well.sf.ca.us**

### **The Media Tree**

Desktop Everything Center. AMIGA, Macintosh, Audio/video **The Media Tree, 510 1/2 Frederick, San Francisco, CA 94117; 415-664-0862**

### **The Ultimate CD Reference**

The Compact disc is the most exciting audio invention since Edison's tinfoil cylinder recorder. To celebrate its 10th birthday, Ken Pohlmann has completely updated his popular guide to CD technology—with new sections on optical and electronic principles underlying the CD format as well as the latest details on new CD player designs. **A-R Editions, Inc. Dept. CM, 801 Deming Way, Madison, WI 53717; 1-800-736-0070**

### **"Visual Mathematics" special issue of Leonardo**

This superb group of articles by such distinguished mathematicians as Roger Penrose and Thomas Banchoff also includes many art and computer graphics articles as well. For instance, there is one by Ylem sculptor Stewart Dickson. Volume 25, Numbers 3 & 4. Guest Editor: Michele Emmer, who will be visiting and lecturing to us in Berkeley this month. (See page 3 for details). Available from: **Leonardo, 672 S. Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110**

### **Avant Garde Art Review (AGAR)**

Fictional art reviews of truly visionary works from 1999. Subscription: free **Mr. Stephen s'Soreff, Editor, 79 Mercer Street, New York, NY 10012**

### **The Art of Mathematics**

Book by Jerry P. King \$24.50 from Plenum Publishing Corporation, which specializes in books on "the language of science." **233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013-1578; 212-620-8047**

### **The Mathworks Inc.**

Simulab is an intuitive, interactive and powerful environment for simulating nonlinear dynamic systems. Built on Matlab. For Windows, X Windows and Macintosh. **Cochituate Place, 24 Prime Park Way, Natick, MA 01760; 508-653-1415; Fax 508-653-2997; info@mathworks.com**

### **The Tech Museum of Innovation**

The Tech, (formerly The Garage), was recently named one of the nation's top ten new tourist attractions. Ylem member Bob Grimm is its technical volunteer co-ordinator. It offers exhibits about Silicon Valley's exotic technologies and an extensive educational outreach program. Join and support it! \$35 individual, \$50 family **The Tech Museum of Innovation, 145 W. San Carlos St., San Jose, CA 95113; 408-279-7150**

### **Virtual Reality Laboratories, Inc.**

VISTAPro: Explore Mars and other Real World Landscapes from satellite data. Allows the user to create and visually explore beautiful scenery on PC or Amiga. Fly-by animations also supported. \$129.95. **Susan Woeltjen, Marketing, Virtual Reality Laboratories, Inc., 2341 Ganador Court, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401; tel. & fax 805-545-8515.**

### **VR World, The Newsletter of Virtual Reality**

Eight-page newsletter for the latest news in virtual reality. 1 year \$58 (10 issues). "We will be your virtual presence in the business, labs, conferences, and symposiums that define the field." **Mr. Tony Materna, Editor, 1374 East 16th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021; 213-746-3536; Fax 213-746-7927**

### **Storyspace: Serious Hypertext**

New product for Macintosh computers (Mac Plus or greater). Storyspace lets you treat ideas like objects: Pick them up. Put them down where you want. Put them inside each other. Organize and reorganize instantly and spontaneously. Making a hypertext link is as easy as drawing a line. You can link to individual words or entire chapters. Links stay put, even after countless revisions. It runs fast, handles thousands of notes, and doesn't need much memory. Compatible with System 7, supports Quicktime and XTND. \$215. Also write for titles of hypertext you can read now, and a hypertext commentary on Dickens.

**Eastgate Systems, Inc., 134 Main St., Watertown, MA 02172; 800-562-1638; 617-924-9044**

### **Master of Fine Arts in Electronic Arts**

Department of the Arts at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute offers a new course of study leading to a Master of Fine Arts degree in Electronic Arts. The MFA program is conceived as an electronic arts program in an integrated artistic and technological environment. The program offers the opportunity to gain expansive knowledge with computer music, video art, computer imaging techniques, animation, and performance. The curriculum stresses creative studio-based work and emphasizes the unique problems presented by performance and public presentation of these media. **Laura Garrison, EAR Studios, Darris Communications Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY 12180-3590; 518-276-4778; Fax: 518-276-4780**

### **Computer Pictures**

Free magazine with product information and some computer art in exchange for information about yourself for marketing purposes. **Computer Pictures, Knowledge Industry Pub., 701 Winchester Ave., White Plains, NY 10604; 1-800-800-5474**

### **Center for Visual Arts Slide Registry**

CVA slide registry needs high-tech art. This 20-year-old group has 40,000 slides, an archive for art historians in the future. It offers artists a referral service and possibility of exhibiting in the CVA Gallery (City Center, Oakland) and elsewhere. Annual membership, \$45. Submission info: **CVA, 1333 Broadway #100, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-451-6300**

### **Virtual Video**

V\_Graph Inc. puts it all together for you—multimedia software for the PC you already have. Minimum system: 640K PC with DOS and graphics adapter (CGA, EGA, & E-VGA). Also Targa versions. **Mr. Trip Denton, V\_Graph Inc., P.O. Box 105, 1275 Westtown Thornton Rd., Westtown PA 19395; 215-399-1521; Fax 215-399-0566**

### **Interactive Media Business**

Product information on various CD and Laserdisc products; business opportunities; new product announcements; and more. Charter subscription: \$30 for 11 issues (\$50 foreign). **Interactive Media Business, Knowledge Industry Pub., 701 Winchester Ave., White Plains, NY 10604**

Some calendar items reprinted from Art Calendar (the monthly marketing and career management journal for artists, PO Box 1040, Great Falls, VA 22066, Subscr. \$32/yr.), Rough Draft (from the San Francisco Cacaphony Society), Video Networks (from Bay Area Video Coalition), Leonardo Newsletter and FineArts Forum e-mail.



## In a Quagmire of Marvels

by Trudy Myrrh Reagan

Van Gogh arose in the morning, fried a potato for breakfast, and trudged off to the fields to paint. He got a little relief from loneliness in the evening at the small-town cabaret, and spent hours writing to his brother. He led an impoverished, monk-like existence, even by the standards of his epoch. Mostly self-taught, he achieved not only a unique vision, but mastery.

How do we begin our day—jogging with our Walkman? Logging onto e-mail? Struggling with new software? Between phone calls during the day we document our work, send out proposals, prepare for a conference, deliver art to a show. And how do we end it—with a

different facets was most vivid when setting up a high-tech show at brand-new convention center, then dashing over the mountain to a religious retreat—then zooming back two days later to strike the set. Gergen's contention is that we operate less and less as a fixed personality with guiding beliefs, and more and more as chameleons taking advantage of every opportunity. The idea that we are one, consistent personality becomes most untenable when we are on the fast track of the rat race. Is this roller-coaster life a benefit to us, or an affliction?

We can dazzle everyone with our ingenious use of new technologies. If

However, all projects begin with an old-fashioned flash of imagination, artistic ylem.

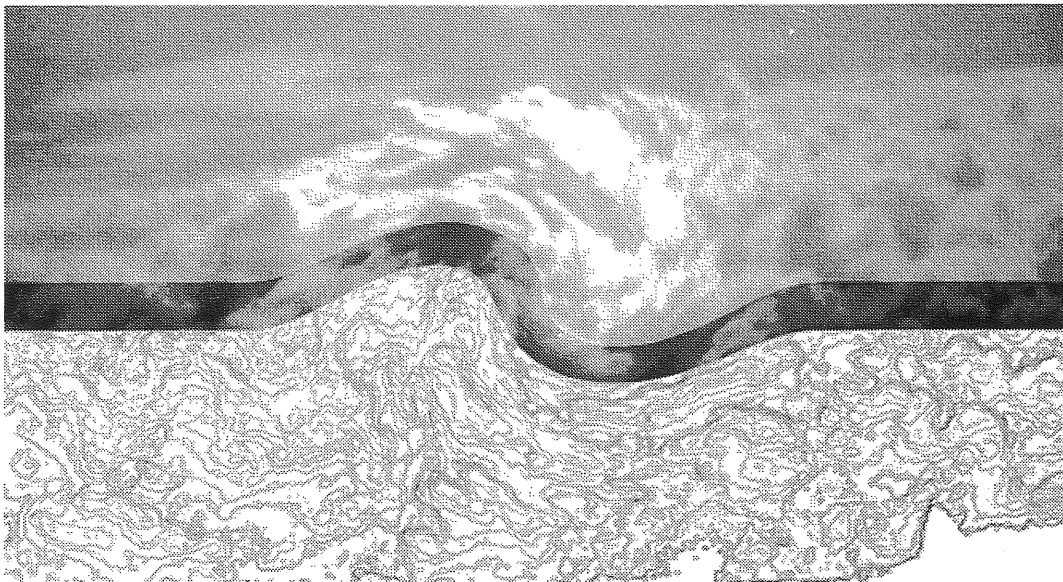
These questions seem major: Where is the quiet space for these flashes to occur, and when does the art get done? Does the artwork perform its true function, either for our soul or for that of the society? Art is playful, and we need play in the same way as we need dreams. But it does more. Art can distill and invite reflection on the time-bound confusion of life and its paradoxes without dishing out pat answers. Art can point to what is classic and timeless. Art offers an amplified context to life even while political oppression is trying to

shrink it in countries like Haiti and Tibet. But in these countries, people have made art more a part of the texture of everyday life. Art comes from community and it springs from the introspection of each of us.

Either "keeping up with" or "getting behind in" the paperwork and data-digestion required today leaves us feeling a little insane. Each technology, travel and learning "opportunity" requires its own investment in time and preparation. "Keeping up" with developments in art is an additional burden, one especially acute in the electronic arts. Too many new opportunities, ones unimagined ten years ago,

can leave us feeling inadequate and left out if we simply want to continue with our previous agenda. One reassurance I got from the *Saturated Self* is that this thicket of malaise is not mine alone. Feeling overwhelmed is cured by learning to stand aside, to strengthen the links to what deeply moves us. Our need and our obligation are the same: to make consecrated space in our lives from which our best art can emerge.

*Disurbance*, computer art by Karen Schminke



TV newscast? Glancing over the day's junk mail?

*The Saturated Self: Dilemmas of Identity in Contemporary Life*, by Kenneth J. Gergen (Basic Books, 1991), describes a condition called *multiphrenia* as the fragmenting and populating of self-experience. Being drenched with information and "meeting" with people in entirely different contexts during the course of a single day is changing us. For me, the contrast between my

we can preserve the means to show it, this will be the characteristic art of our time. Moreover, we can now orchestrate new art that pulls in responses from people around us in beautiful ways. Art "works" may no longer leave physical traces, be unique, or the product of a single inventor. We call them "art" because we see the world differently when they touch us. This is the positive side of the new, fast-paced culture we find ourselves in.

Please send a **membership application** and sample newsletter to (me) (my friends) at:

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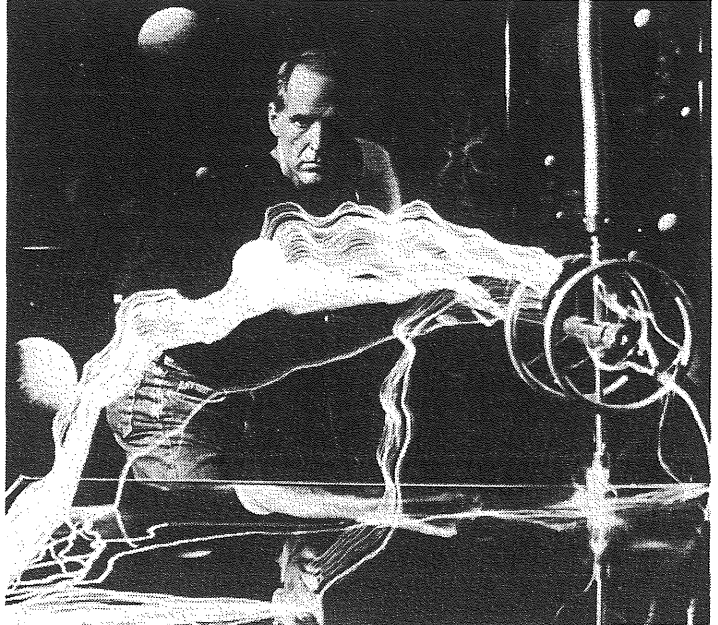
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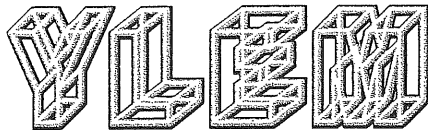
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Dave Archer creates an electric painting.



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**Contributions are most welcome**

The Ylem Newsletter needs Ylem members' art and articles, notices of events, exhibitions, etc. Art submitted must reproduce well with b&w copy machine. If you have done art on a Macintosh, you may send us a disk. Please include title, date created, medium and phone number. Articles should be 400-800 words long, preferably on a Mac disk. Send to **Ylem Editor** (see below).

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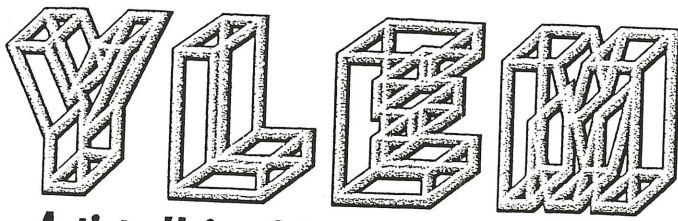
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ISSN 1057-2031  
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**October Newsletter**

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Ylem (Eye-lum): The exploding mass out of which the universe emerged in the Big Bang

*Artists Using Science and Technology*

**Ylem Newsletter**  
Vol.12, No. 7 October 1992

